

Tom Horne
Superintendent

N.E.W.S

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

For more information, contact: Amy Rezzonico, Press Secretary (602)-542-5072

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monday, February 25, 2008

HORNE ADVISES PARENTS TO BE ALERT TO HIGH-PRESSURE SALES SCAM

PHOENIX (Monday, February 25, 2008) -- State schools chief Tom Horne is alerting parents to beware of a potential scam involving businesses that claim to have private student information and use that information for high-pressure sales tactics.

“My office has received several complaints about business representatives claiming to either work for the Department of Education or who claim to possess private student level data that is legally protected under federal law. They are using this information to pressure parents into buying educational software and other materials,” Horne said.

“Under no circumstances, except the rare instance of a court order, does the department release such data and the state Department of Education does not endorse any commercial products or services. Anyone who encounters someone using that type of sales ploy should report the matter to the Arizona Attorney General Consumer Fraud Division immediately,” he added.

The Consumer Information and Complaints office may be contacted at: 602-542-5763, 520-628-6504, or 800-352-8431.

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